

Date: September 20, 2006
Preliminary Amendment
Serial No. 10/565,614

6

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 20 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 16-17 and 19-20 are amended to distinguish from the cited prior art. Claims 9, 11-12, 15 and 18 are cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10, 13-14, 16-17, 19-20 remain in the case.

Basis for the proposed amendment of Claims 1 and 17 can be found in the description as filed at page 5, lines 10-13 and 22-24; page 10, lines 21-23; page 11, lines 8-12; page 13 lines 13-16; and page 13 line 31 to page 14, line 3. Basis for the proposed amendment of Claim 13 can be found in original Claim 15.

Claims 1, 4-9, 13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chan (United States Patent No. 5, 116,273). Claims 1,5,8,9,13 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (EP 0193150). Claims 1-4,6,8-14 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fuchs (DE3718729).

Chan and *Takahashi* each disclose devices suitable for use as a sunblind that comprise a frame having a closed-loop configuration, and a panel of flexible material secured to the rigid frame. However, none of the devices disclosed by these documents includes a fixing component comprising a clip portion that engages the frame with a snap-fit, and a planar extension that is adapted to engage an appropriate part of the recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of the window frame and any sealing material, as defined by amended Claims 1 and 17. Instead, *Chan* does not disclose any fixing component, and *Takahashi* disclosed a mounting that is permanently fixed to the sunblind and the frame of a window.

Fuchs discloses a sunblind comprising fixing components (8) that each include a planar projection. These planar projections appear from the Figures to be adapted to engage an appropriate part of the recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of the window frame and any sealing material. However, the sunblind disclosed by this document does not include a fixing component comprising a clip portion that engages the frame with a snap fit, as defined by proposed amended Claims 1 and 17. Instead, the fixing components of *Fuchs* appear to form an integral part of the rigid frame.

Of the prior art documents cited by the examiner, only *Fuchs* discloses fixing components comprising planar extensions adapted to engage an appropriate part of the recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of the window frame and any sealing material. Such fixing components are advantageous because they

Date: September 20, 2006
Preliminary Amendment
Serial No. 10/565,614

7

provide a relatively secure mounting while being readily engagable and disengageable, their simple construction may reduce manufacturing costs, and there is no need for any fixing component to be permanently mounted to the vehicle.

However, as discussed above, the fixing components of *Fuchs* do not include a clip portion that engages the frame with a snap-fit, as defined by proposed amended Claims 1 and 17. This feature of the present invention is advantageous over the arrangement of *Fuchs* in that it enables a simpler manufacturing process leading to reduces manufacturing costs, and also enables the position of the fixing components to be altered as required by the circumstances.

None of the prior art documents cited suggests a fixing component having a clip portion that engages the frame with a snap-fit, or even any other form of readily replaceable fixing component. The applicant therefore believes that this feature of proposed amended Claims 1 and 17 is non-obvious over the prior art documents cited by the examiner.

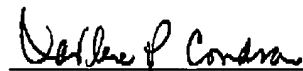
The allowance of claims 15 and 16 are noted. The requirements of allowable claim 15 are now incorporated into independent claim 13.

For the above reasons, the applicant believes that amended Claims 1, 13 and 17, as well as the associated dependent claims, are novel and non-obvious over the prior art documents cited by the examiner.

This case is believed to be in condition for passing to issue. Such action is requested. If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & BASILE, P.C.



Darlene P. Condra
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,113
(248) 649-3333

YOUNG & BASILE, P.C.
3001 W. Big Beaver Road
Suite 624
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107
DPC/caw